

Connecticut State Board of Education

Connecticut Mastery Test

FOURTH GENERATION

CMT MAS Reading Practice Test

2014

Grades 6 – 8

Dear Student,

During the next few weeks you will be taking a set of tests as part of the Connecticut Mastery Testing Program. This Reading practice test will show you what some of the questions will be like and how you are to mark your answers. When you finish the practice test, it is yours to keep and take home.

This practice test covers Degrees of Reading Power® and Reading Comprehension.

DEGREES OF READING POWER®

In the Degrees of Reading Power® part of the test, you will be asked to read a series of passages on various topics. As you read each passage, you will find that some words are missing. Whenever a word is missing, there will be a blank with a number on it. Next to the passage is the same number and 4 words. You are to choose the word that makes the **best** sense in the blank.

DIRECTIONS

Choose the word that makes the **best** sense in the blank. Completely fill in the bubble next to the word you choose.

Poison ivy may look beautiful. But touching it can cause itching. People need to be able to recognize poison ivy. Then they can avoid it. The leaves of poison ivy grow in groups of three. People should watch for this 1. Color can also be a clue. Poison ivy leaves are deep red in spring and fall. In summer, they are shiny green. In winter, there are no leaves at all. The plant is bare. However, it can still do harm—even in the middle of winter. The 2 does not matter. People must be careful the year round.

- 1

☐ pattern

☐ flower

☐ grass

☐ trail
- 2

☐ action

☐ area

☐ animal

☐ season

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The ancient Romans built the world's first network of paved roads. These roads connected Rome with its conquered provinces across Europe. Roman roads were built primarily to permit the quick and safe movement of troops. However, the roads also had another **3** . They were designed to facilitate trade throughout the empire.

- 3** ☐ entrance ☐ name
 ☐ purpose ☐ surface

The greatest of the Roman roads was the Appian Way. Begun in 312 B.C., the Appian Way at first ran only as far as the military center of Capua. In time, however, the road was **4** . Eventually, it reached the port of Brindisi, on the Adriatic. This gave Rome a gateway to the Near East and its riches.

- 4** ☐ lighted ☐ taxed
 ☐ crossed ☐ extended

Roman roads are famous for being straight. In many cases, it would have been easier for the Romans to build roads around mountains and swamps instead of going through them. Yet, Romans chose the latter **5** . Preferring the most direct course, they scaled mountains and crossed swamps.

- 5** ☐ material ☐ route
 ☐ amount ☐ market

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READING COMPREHENSION

On the Reading Comprehension part of the test, you will be asked to read a passage and answer questions about the passage. The questions below are similar to those on the real Connecticut Mastery Test.

- For the multiple-choice questions, completely fill in the bubble next to the **best** answer to each question.
 - For the written response question, clearly write your answer in the space provided.
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DIRECTIONS

Read the article about a Connecticut park and then answer numbers 1 through 3.

Harkness Memorial State Park

- 1 Have you ever visited Harkness Memorial State Park, located in Waterford, Connecticut? If not, then pick a day to explore this special state treasure! Pack a light lunch, a camera, and a kite to help make your visit even more exciting.
- 2 Tucked along the coastline, Harkness Memorial State Park has so much to offer! Inhale the salty air. Enjoy breathtaking views of the ocean and the boats sailing in Long Island Sound! Enjoy a picnic! Play a game of ball. Stroll along the pathways leading up to Eolia, the elegant summer mansion once owned by the Harkness family. Take a tour of Eolia and explore the lovely gardens and landscapes surrounding it.

- 3 If you enjoy taking pictures, you are sure to capture the beauty of nature and its wildlife. The wide-open land was once used for farming. Now the space is used for a variety of activities such as flying kites. With the right amount of wind, it is not uncommon to see dozens of kites flying in the breeze. They decorate the sky with brilliant colors and shapes.
- 4 Whether you crave rest or adventure, Harkness can be enjoyed by all!
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- 1 According to the article, the land surrounding the Harkness Mansion was once used for
- ☐ fishing.
 - ☐ mining.
 - ☐ swimming.
 - ☐ farming.
- 2 If the author added another paragraph to the end of the article, it would most likely have described
- ☐ tips for creating beautiful gardens.
 - ☐ how to sail a boat in Long Island Sound.
 - ☐ reasons why you should not visit Harkness Memorial State Park.
 - ☐ other activities to enjoy at Harkness Memorial State Park.

3 Imagine that you spent a day at Harkness Memorial State Park. Write a paragraph that could appear in your journal. Use information from the article to support your answer.

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Answer Key

Degrees of Reading Power®

- 1** pattern
- 2** season
- 3** purpose
- 4** extended
- 5** route

Reading Comprehension

- 1** farming.
- 2** other activities to enjoy at Harkness Memorial State Park.